

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12726 220350Z

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SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POLICY OF JAPAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAPER ON NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT POLICY OF JAPAN IN THE QTE NEW INTERNATIONAL SITUATION UNQTE PREPARED BY THE JAPAN ATOMIC INUDSTRIAL FORUM SUBMITTED TO THE JAPAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ON AUGUST 18.

2. BEGIN TEXT

QUOTE

IT IS AN ADMITTED FACT THAT NUCLEAR POWER IS AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY OF JAPAN WHICH IS PAINFULLY SCARCE OF ENERGY RESOURCES. FOR THIS NATION, EXTREMELY POOR IN URANIUM RESOURCES, NUCLEAR POWER WILL ONLY BECOME A MEANINGFUL SOURCE OF FUTURE RELIABLE AND ABUNDANT ENERGY WITH THE SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT OF "NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE" -- RECOVERY AND USE OF PLUTONIUM AND DEPLETED URANIUM FROM SPENT FUEL OF CONVENTIONAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND THE SUBSEQUENT INTRODUCTION OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS (FBRs).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12726 220350Z

THIS "NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE; PLUTONIUM RECYCLE" IS AN AVOWED OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED BY THE HISTORY OF 30 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THE WROLD, AND IT IS AN IMPORTANT POLICY OPTION FOR JAPAN WHICH MAY AFFECT HER FUTURE NATIONAL ECONOMY, TO AIM AT ITS COMPLETION THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PLUTONIUM UTILIZATION. THIS IS THE VERY CAUSE OF OUR INVESTMENT, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, OF SOME 500 BILLION

YEN (ACCUMULATED) AND 2,500 PERSONNEL IN THE PAST 20 YEARS TO DEVELOP TECHNOLOGIES OF REPROCESSING, RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT, PLUTONIUM USES, ADVANCED THERMAL REACTOR (ATR) AND FBR. ALSO, WE HAVE PROMOTED THE CONSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMS OF FACILITIES INCLUDING RECENTLY COMPLETED REPROCESSING PLANT AND EXPERIMENTAL FBR OF THE POWER REACTOR AND NUCLEAR FUEL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PNC).

HOWEVER, IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR POWER COUNTRIES AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR POLICY OF THE U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS HAVE BEEN CHANGED, AND JAPAN'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MAY BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THIS. AND, WHILE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE JAPAN-U.S. TALKS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CARRIED OUT, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS RIGHTLY MAINTAINED ITS COOPERATION TO THE PROMOTION OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY AS WELL AS THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

AS RESPECTIVE NEGOTIATION ENTERS A NEW PHASE AT PRESENT, WE PROPOSE HERE THE FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION STATEMENT ON THE RELATED PROBLEMS AND MEASURES, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING THE BASIS FOR OUR NUCLEAR POLICY FROM A LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE.

1) THE COMPLETED REPROCESSING PLANT OF PNC IS NOT ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 12726 220350Z

THE ESSENTIAL FACILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS PLUTONIUM HANDLING, ITS USES AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT, BUT THE INDISPENSABLE ONE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PLUTONIUM NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE ADVANCED REACTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

THE REPROCESSING CONTRACTS WITH THE U.K. AND FRANCE OF WHICH NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED, ARE PREREQUISITES NOT ONLY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF REQUIRED PLUTONIUM BUT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATIONS OF THE FUTURE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. NO DELAY MUST BE ADMITTED, IF ONLY TO MEET TRANSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THE SECOND REPROCESSING PLANT IS BROUGHT ON STREAM.

2) IN THIS NATION WE HAVE NOW THE OPERATING 13 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS SUPPLYING 7 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ELECTRICITY, AND THE 16 UNITS OF THEM NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION (14,460MW). IT IS REQUIRED BY THE COMPETENT LAW THAT SPENT FUEL FROM THOSE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE ALL TO BE REPROCESSED AS MENTIONED BEFORE.

SHOULD THE REPROCESSING PLANT OF PNC AND THE REPO-

CESSING CONTRACTS WITH THE U.K. AND FRANCE BE DEFERRED, JAPAN'S NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT POLICY WILL BECOME CONTRADICTORY, AND THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY OF PRESENT AND NEAR FUTURE MIGHT BE SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED.

3) LET US NOW TURN TO THE FUTURE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCE OF PLUTONIUM IN THIS COUNTRY. THE PLUTONIUM TO BE PRODUCED BY BOTH PNC REPROCESSING PLANT AND THE CONTRACTS WITH THE U.K. AND FRANCE WILL JUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, PROTOTYPE AND DEMONSTRATION ATRS, AND EXPERIMENTAL, PROTOTYPE AND DEMONSTRATION FBRS.

PLUTONIUM FROM THE SECOND REPROCESSING PLANT WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TOKYO 12726 220350Z

ALSO USED FOR COMMERCIAL ATRS AND FBRS AS WELL AS FOR LIGHT WATER REACTORS ON COMMERCIAL SCALE. CONSTRUCTION PLANS OF THE SECOND REPROCESSING PLANT MUST BE FLEXIBLE, TAKING PLUTONIUM BALANCE OF THE FUTURE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM USING PLUTONIUM INTO CONSIDERATION, AND SPENT FUEL STORAGE POOLS MAY BE BUILT IN ADVANCE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT. IT IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND PLANT SHOULD BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY, SUCH AS ACQUISITION OF THE PLANT SITE, IN ORDER TO MEET THE DEMANDS AFTER EXPIRATION OF THE CONTRACTS WITH THE U.K. AND FRANCE.

4) THE USE OF PLUTONIUM IN LWRS IS NOT YET APPLIED ON COMMERCIAL SCALE IN JAPAN, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL TAKE MANY YEARS TO CARRY OUT R & D IN THIS FIELD. OUR FINAL TARGET OF PLUTONIUM UTILIZATION IS FEEDING IT INTO FBRS. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, PLUTONIUM IS A VERY VIABLE OPTION ESPECIALLY FOR JAPAN WITH EXTREMELY POOR URANIUM ESOURCES, IN CASE THE WORLD URANIUM MARKET BECOMES TIGHT. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR JAPAN TO MAKE CLEAR THE BASIC POLICY ON PLUTONIUM UTILIZATION FOR LIGHT WATER REACTORS (LWRS), AND ATRS AND TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS TECHNOLOGY IN LINE WITH THIS POLICY.

5) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN JAPAN IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO PEACEFUL USES. THIS IS UNDERLINED BY OUR CONSTITUTION, ATOMIC ENERGY BASIC LAW AND THE THREE PRINCIPLES ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- AGAINST THE MANUFACTURE, POSSESSION AND INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. JAPAN BECAME A PARTY TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, BASED ON THIS EXPRESSED POLICY, AND MORE STRINGENT MEASURES FOR SAFEGUARDS AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS PROTECTION HAVE LONG BEEN APPLIED. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 TOKYO 12726 220350Z

JAPAN ACTIVELY SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AS A STEP TOWARDS EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND COOPERATES WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM IN THE PREVENTION OF DANGERS AND RISKS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY.

WE RECOMMEND THAT JAPAN EXPRESSES THIS POSITION CLEARLY AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND SHE TAKES INITIATIVE IN MAKING PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM BY UTILIZING HER OWN FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGIES AS WELL AS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ORDERLY MULTINATIONAL AGREEMENT TO REGULATE SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS, SO THAT DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY BE INTERNATIONALLY COMPATIBLE.

WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT IN CASE PLUTONIUM BECOMES SURPLUS IN FUTURE FOR SOME PERIOD IN JAPAN, WE CONSIDER TO PLACE IT UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND THAT WE STUDY A REALISTIC AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR PLUTONIUM CONTROL WITH AGREEMENTS FROM OTHER NATIONS CONCERNED. IN ADDITION, IT IS NECESSARY THAT JAPAN SHOULD EXTEND COOPERATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL JOINT STUDIES ON THE PROLIFERATION RESISTANT TECHNOLOGY SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT HINDER THE BASIS OF JAPAN'S PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY MENTIONED ABOVE.

WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT, BASED ON THE ABOVE LONG TERM POLICY CONCEPTS, TO ADOPT STEADFAST AND POWERFUL MEASURES TO ESTABLISH NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FOR JAPAN AND TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE FORTHCOMING THIRD JAPAN-U.S. NEGOTIATIONS, NOT TO INCUR SERIOUS DAMAGES TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF JAPAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

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PAGE 06 TOKYO 12726 220350Z

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